

Friends Committee on
National Legislation
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Washington, D.C. 20002

FCNL

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION BULLETIN

THREE COMMENDABLE RESOLUTIONS ON VIETNAM

(Revised as of October 22, 1969)

Among the many Congressional resolutions on Vietnam now pending, three are outstanding. While there are some differences in approach among these three, we recommend that all three be actively supported, that their sponsors be commended for their initiative and that other Members of Congress be urged to co-sponsor strong resolutions such as these.

I. MCGOVERN WITHDRAWAL NOW

S.CON.RES. 35

Introduced October 9. Sponsors: Senators McGovern, S.D.; Church, Ida.; Cranston, Cal.; Hughes, Iowa; McCarthy, Minn.; Moss, Utah; Nelson, Wis.; Ribicoff, Conn.; and Young, Ohio.

Whereas the war in Vietnam has resulted in the loss of more than forty thousand American lives, in some two hundred and fifty thousand American casualties, in the depletion of American resources to the extent of over \$100,000,000,000 and in inestimable destruction of Vietnamese life and property; and

Whereas the war stands today as the greatest single obstacle to efforts to focus the country's financial, human, and spiritual resources upon urgent domestic needs, and

Whereas spokesmen for the present administration have recognized that military victory cannot be achieved in Vietnam and have specifically defined United States policy to exclude the unattainable goal; and

Whereas the painful history of United States involvement in Vietnam exposes the futility of external attempts to create and sustain a viable, indigenous government, particularly when its leaders resist political and social reforms aimed at inspiring popular confidence and support; and

Whereas the leaders of South Vietnam have indicated, by action and deed, that their ambitions conflict with the interest of the United States in a prompt settlement of the conflict, and that they are unlikely to adopt a negotiating posture which might end the war so long as they are assured of all the United States support they need to prosecute it; and

Whereas the dominant result of policies relating the level of American presence to the capability or willingness of the South Vietnamese to fight the war themselves can only be the continued daily loss of life and limb by American servicemen, with no foreseeable conclusion: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress of the United States that all United States forces should now be withdrawn from Vietnam, the pace of the withdrawal to be limited only by steps to insure the safety of our forces, the mutual release of prisoners of war, and the provision of safety, through arrangement for amnesty or asylum in friendly countries, for those Vietnamese who might be endangered by our disengagement.'

Members of the House are sponsoring a resolution (H.CONRES.403) similar to this except that it deletes the clause about mutual release of prisoners. Sponsors are: Brown, Burton, Edwards, Cal.; Button, Chisholm, Rosenthal, Ryan, N.Y.; Conyers, Mich.; Eckhardt, Tex.; Fraser, Minn.; Jacobs, Ind.; Kastenmeier, Wis.; Mikva, Ill.; Olsen, Mont.

*- Button & Olsen leading out for
as sponsors.*

II. GOODELL DECEMBER 1, 1970 DEADLINE

S.3000

Introduced October 7. Sponsors: Senators Goodell, N.Y.; Hatfield, Ore.; McGovern, S.D.

"That this Act may be cited as the 'Vietnam Disengagement Act of 1969'

"Sec. 2. (a) Congress finds that the broad foreign policy interests of the United States require that the American military presence in Vietnam be removed at the earliest possible time, and that such action will promote the social and political well-being of the people of South Vietnam; that the prosecution of the war in Vietnam with American troops must be ended, not merely reduced; that the loss of American lives in Vietnam can be halted only by establishing a clear timetable for terminating American combat operations and withdrawing American troop commitments in the near future; and that the responsibility for ending the American involvement in Vietnam is not the President's alone, but must be shared by the Congress under its constitutional authority to 'raise and support armies' and to 'declare war.'

"(b) It is the purpose of this Act-

(1) to reassert the responsibility of Congress, under its constitutional authority to 'raise and support armies' and 'declare war,' to share with the President the task of extricating this Nation from the Vietnam war; and to involve Congress in setting a clear and unequivocal timetable for the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam;

(2) to express the clear intent of Congress that all American military personnel be withdrawn from Vietnam on or before December 1, 1970; so that the retention even of noncombat military training personnel in Vietnam after that date would not be permitted without the enactment by Congress of further legislation specifically approving such retention; and

(3) to give clear notice to the Government of South Vietnam that following December 1, 1970, it must assume the burden of fighting; and to permit the withdrawal of American military personnel and the assumption of their combat functions in an orderly fashion on a schedule set by the President with a required termination date of December 1, 1970.

"Sec. 3. Chapter 1 of part III of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"Sec. 620A. PRESENCE IN VIETNAM.--No part of any amount authorized to be appropriated under any Act shall be used after December 1, 1970, to maintain military personnel of the United States in Vietnam."

III. HUGHES TWO-MONTH TIME LIMIT

S.228.248.

Introduced October 7. Sponsors: Senators Hughes, Iowa; Church, Idaho; Cranston, Cal.; Eagleton, Mo.; Hatfield, Ore.; McCarthy, Minn.; McGovern, S.D.; Mondale, Minn.; Yarborough, Tex.; and Young, Ohio.

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Government of South Vietnam should promptly be urged to take the following steps within the next sixty days:

"(1) Grant liberty and amnesty to all of those presently held in custody as political prisoners;

"(2) Lift the censorship of all communications media, foreign and domestic, including especially those newspapers which have been closed down;

"(3) Permit political parties the freedom to organize and operate without governmental controls; and

"(4) Present a plan for a provisional government, broadly representative of the main political, ethnic, and religious groups of South Vietnam, whose principal functions will be to maintain government effectively during the transition from war to peace; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that if each of these conditions is not satisfied, in whole or in substantial part, then the United States should declare officially that its commitment to the present Government of South Vietnam is ended, and that with all responsible haste it will terminate its military, political, and economic assistance to that Government."

- S.RES.270. Urges "more rapid withdrawal." Sponsors: Senators Church, Hatfield, Young (Ohio), Harris, Ribicoff, Cranston, Hart, Nelson, Case, Burdick, Metcalf, Mondale, McGovern, McCarthy, Tydings and Bayh.
- S.CON.RES. 40. Urges withdrawal of all combat troops by end of 1970 and repeal of Gulf of Tonkin authority. Sponsors: Senators Javits, Metcalf and Pell.
- H.CON.RES.378. Urges substantial withdrawal of all forces by December 31. Sponsors: Udall, Tiernan, R.I.; Boland, Mass.
- H.RES.564-568. Commends current withdrawals, supports withdrawal of all ground combat forces at earliest practicable date. Sponsors: Lindley, Ill.; Thomson, Wis.; O'Neill, Mass.; Hungate, Mo. (in all - 64 Republicans and 45 Democrats.)
- S.RES.271. Urges North Vietnam and NLF to take 5 steps for peace. Sponsors: Dole, Allott, Baker, Bellmon, Bennett, Boggs, Cannon, Cook, Cotton, Curtis, Dominick, Ervin, Fannin, Fong, Goldwater, Griffin, Gurney, Hansen, Hollings, Hruska, Jordan, (Idaho), McGee, Mathias, Miller, Mundt, Murphy, Pearson, Percy, Saxbe, Scott, Mrs. Smith, (Me.), Smith, Ill., Stevens, Thurmond, and Tower.

SENATE HEARINGS ARE NEXT CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON VIETNAM

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee had scheduled a week of hearings on Vietnam to begin October 27. Those hearings have now been postponed until after President Nixon's speech on Vietnam scheduled for November 3.

Witnesses are expected to be Members of Congress who have sponsored resolutions on Vietnam, Administration's spokesmen, like Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird and Secretary of State William Rogers, former Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford and others.

HOUSE DEBATE A LANDMARK

House members were not able to keep the Vietnam debate going all night October 14 as they had originally hoped. Adjournment came after 11: p.m. on a 112-110 roll call vote. But the lively discussion, spearheaded by Andrew Jacobs of Indiana and Ben Rosenthal of New York, is generally regarded as the best engagement of minds between supporters and opponents that the House has ever had on the Vietnam War. If you would like to read it, ask your Congressman to send you the Congressional Record of October 14, 1969.